TABLE 4-3

Full-time employed scientists and engineers and their median salary, by major field of highest degree, employment sector, and primary work activity: 2019

(Number and dollars)

Field of highest degree and employment sector		Salary	Primary work activity										
	Number		Computer applications		Management and administration ^a		Research and development ^b		Teaching		Other ^c		
			Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	
All fields	6,784,000	95,000	1,894,000	105,000	1,547,000	100,000	1,548,000	85,000	275,000	70,000	1,520,000	88,000	
Business or industry	5,069,000	100,000	1,692,000	106,000	1,213,000	104,000	900,000	100,000	25,000	65,000	1,239,000	90,000	
4-year educational institution	796,000	65,000	83,000	77,000	63,000	79,000	402,000	50,000	194,000	72,000	54,000	67,000	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	155,000	64,000	16,000	59,000	16,000	71,000	23,000	63,000	49,000	66,000	51,000	62,000	
Government	764,000	89,000	103,000	93,000	255,000	98,000	223,000	80,000	S	S	176,000	82,000	
S&E fields	5,211,000	96,000	1,500,000	105,000	1,034,000	105,000	1,291,000	86,000	207,000	72,000	1,178,000	88,000	
Business or industry	3,865,000	102,000	1,347,000	110,000	801,000	106,000	746,000	100,000	13,000	67,000	958,000	90,000	
4-year educational institution	664,000	63,000	68,000	75,000	37,000	101,000	364,000	48,000	152,000	73,000	42,000	68,000	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	110,000	65,000	9,000	59,000	9,000	62,000	13,000	72,000	36,000	68,000	43,000	64,000	
Government	572,000	92,000	75,000	98,000	188,000	100,000	168,000	85,000	S	S	136,000	87,000	
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	620,000	69,000	32,000	96,000	108,000	75,000	325,000	64,000	41,000	69,000	114,000	68,000	
Business or industry	292,000	80,000	21,000	99,000	60,000	79,000	128,000	81,000	3,000	D	80,000	66,000	
4-year educational institution	194,000	52,000	8,000	65,000	8,000	82,000	141,000	48,000	27,000	64,000	11,000	70,000	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	14,000	71,000	D	D	D	D	D	D	11,000	71,000	D	D	
Government	120,000	68,000	2,000	86,000	40,000	70,000	55,000	68,000	D	D	22,000	64,000	
Computer and mathematical sciences	1,561,000	103,000	877,000	105,000	233,000	116,000	193,000	98,000	49,000	66,000	208,000	92,000	
Business or industry	1,311,000	108,000	788,000	108,000	200,000	120,000	147,000	104,000	S	S	174,000	100,000	
4-year educational institution	110,000	76,000	35,000	77,000	9,000	100,000	27,000	80,000	31,000	64,000	7,000	79,000	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	38,000	58,000	6,000	54,000	S	S	7,000	D	12,000	65,000	10,000	54,000	
Government	102,000	97,000	47,000	97,000	22,000	110,000	12,000	99,000	D	D	18,000	81,000	

TABLE 4-3

Full-time employed scientists and engineers and their median salary, by major field of highest degree, employment sector, and primary work activity: 2019

(Number and dollars)

Field of highest degree and employment sector		Salary	Primary work activity										
	Number		Computer applications		Management and administration ^a		Research and development ^b		Teaching		Other ^c		
			Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	
Physical and related sciences	379,000	85,000	47,000	105,000	65,000	100,000	176,000	74,000	28,000	72,000	62,000	83,000	
Business or industry	225,000	97,000	37,000	119,000	48,000	98,000	91,000	90,000	S	S	47,000	89,000	
4-year educational institution	99,000	50,000	6,000	45,000	4,000	108,000	62,000	35,000	24,000	76,000	2,000	58,000	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	4,000	64,000	D	D	D	D	D	D	3,000	64,000	D	D	
Government	51,000	96,000	3,000	79,000	13,000	107,000	23,000	100,000	D	D	13,000	79,000	
Social and related sciences	610,000	80,000	94,000	84,000	117,000	85,000	168,000	72,000	69,000	75,000	163,000	75,000	
Business or industry	331,000	82,000	83,000	85,000	86,000	81,000	66,000	86,000	6,000	60,000	90,000	79,000	
4-year educational institution	157,000	68,000	3,000	59,000	7,000	96,000	75,000	50,000	54,000	78,000	17,000	58,000	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	44,000	68,000	D	D	4,000	72,000	2,000	71,000	8,000	72,000	30,000	67,000	
Government	79,000	85,000	7,000	75,000	20,000	92,000	26,000	68,000	D	D	25,000	89,000	
Engineering	2,041,000	103,000	451,000	112,000	511,000	110,000	429,000	100,000	20,000	89,000	631,000	93,000	
Business or industry	1,706,000	105,000	417,000	113,000	407,000	110,000	314,000	108,000	1,000	90,000	566,000	94,000	
4-year educational institution	105,000	75,000	16,000	75,000	7,000	103,000	60,000	50,000	16,000	90,000	6,000	S	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	10,000	66,000	D	D	3,000	D	2,000	D	2,000	63,000	D	D	
Government	221,000	102,000	16,000	124,000	93,000	109,000	52,000	96,000	S	S	58,000	92,000	
S&E-related fields	373,000	89,000	82,000	102,000	84,000	99,000	101,000	88,000	14,000	67,000	93,000	73,000	
Business or industry	272,000	95,000	72,000	104,000	67,000	99,000	57,000	98,000	D	D	75,000	74,000	
4-year educational institution	40,000	62,000	2,000	58,000	4,000	53,000	24,000	60,000	7,000	71,000	S	S	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	14,000	63,000	S	S	D	D	S	S	6,000	63,000	S	S	
Government	47,000	91,000	6,000	90,000	12,000	102,000	18,000	87,000	D	D	11,000	73,000	

TABLE 4-3

Full-time employed scientists and engineers and their median salary, by major field of highest degree, employment sector, and primary work activity: 2019

(Number and dollars)

			Primary work activity										
Field of highest degree and employment			Computer applications		Management and administration ^a		Research and development ^b		Teaching		Other ^c		
sector	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	Number	Salary	
Non-S&E fields	1,200,000	90,000	312,000	92,000	430,000	95,000	156,000	83,000	54,000	65,000	249,000	90,000	
Business or industry	932,000	100,000	273,000	99,000	346,000	100,000	97,000	98,000	10,000	54,000	206,000	100,000	
4-year educational institution	93,000	68,000	13,000	78,000	23,000	63,000	14,000	63,000	35,000	69,000	9,000	52,000	
2-year college or precollege educational institution	31,000	60,000	6,000	45,000	6,000	66,000	9,000	59,000	7,000	62,000	S	S	
Government	144,000	74,000	22,000	75,000	55,000	88,000	37,000	73,000	D	D	29,000	50,000	

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

S&E = science and engineering.

Note(s)

Population counts are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Median salaries are rounded to the nearest \$1,000. Scientists and engineers are bachelor's and higher degreed individuals living in the United States employed in an S&E occupation. Persons are considered to be employed full time if they are working 35 or more hours per week on their principal job. Four-year educational institution includes medical schools and university-affiliated research institutes. Government includes federal (civilian), military, state, and local employers.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates: 2019.

^a Management and administration includes respondents who reported the following work activities: accounting, finance, or contracts; human resources; quality or productivity management; sales and marketing; or managing and supervising.

^b Research and development includes basic research, applied research, and development. "Design" is no longer included in the definition of "research and development"; it is now included as part of "Other work activities."

^c Other work activities includes the design of equipment, processes, structures, and models; production, operations, and maintenance; professional services; and other activities not broken out separately.